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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

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Communist Propaganda Directives

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Communist Party pro-<u>paganda objectives in western Austria:</u>

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- a. The present propaganda of the Communist Party of Austria must deal with the concept of world peace and with economic affairs rather than pursue narrow Communist, Party aims. This new line is a result of the Soviet policy designed for Western Europe, which bars open Communist Party propaganda for the time being.
- b. The propaganda activities of the Communist Party in Western Austria must also take into consideration the youth, with a view of increasing the membership of the FOeJ (Free Austrian Youth). In an effort to preserve west Austrian industries, Communist strikers must refrain from any sabotage acts. Propaganda slogans, such as the perpetual deterioration of Austria's economic situation, the ineffectiveness of the government, the need for expansion of trade relations, and the western dictatorship in Austria will be continued. The critical financial situation of Austria is a very convenient subject for propagandistic exploitation. Full use must be made of the time remaining before July 1950 when new loans will be granted by the United States. Also of significance is information from Vienna indicating that,

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in order to check the deterioration of Austria's financial situation, the Austrian Government is considering an increase in the circulation of bank-notes.

c. Another factor suited for political exploitation in western Austria is the present weakness of the Western Powers, both politically and militarily, which prevents them from adopting a firm policy. There is still a possibility of US-Soviet agreement on a definition of the mutual spheres of interest in Central Europe, and accordingly, the possibility of western Austria's integration into the Soviet orbit still exists.

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